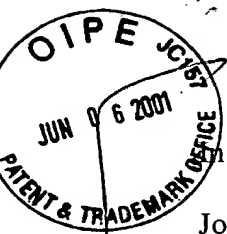


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

re application of:

Jorg-Thorsten MOHR et al.

Group Art Unit: 1625

Serial No.: 09/640,748

Examiner: B. Trinh

Filed: August 18, 2000

For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING OF DROSPIRENONE (6 β , 7 β , 15 β , 16 β -DIMETHYLENE-3-OXO-17 α -PREGN-4-EN-21, 17-CARBOLACTONE, DRSP) AS WELL AS 7 α -(3-HYDROXY-1-PROPYL)-6 β , 7 β ; 15 β , 16 β -DIMETHYLENE-5 β -ANDROSTANE-3 β , 5, 17 β -TRIOL (ZK 92836) AND 6 β , 7 β ; 15 β , 16 β -DIMETHYLENE-5 β -HYDROXY-3-OXO-17 α -ANDROSTANE-21, 17-CARBOLACTONE (90965) AS INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTS OF THE PROCESS

8/19/01

REPLY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

In response to the office action dated December 6, 2000, please amend the above-identified application as indicated below and consider the remarks which follow (a marked-up version is attached hereto):

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert on page 1, after the Title --This application is a continuation of U. S.

Application Serial No. 09/242,334, now U.S. Patent 6,121,465, which is incorporated by

reference in its entirety herein. *Said application is also a 371 of PCT/EP 97/04342 dated 8/11/1997.*

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 7 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

(Amended) A composition comprising 6 β , 7 β ; 15 β , 16 β -dimethylene-3-oxo-17 α -pregn-4-ene-21, 17-carbolactone of claim 4, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and less than 0.2% by weight of said compound of the contaminants

SCH-1664 C1